

Danthonia spicata - *Poa compressa* Granite Herbaceous Vegetation (Poverty Grass Granite Barrens)

COMMON NAME	Poverty Grass - Canada Bluegrass Granite Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	<i>Poverty Grass Granite Barrens</i>
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION	Medium-tall sod temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.c)
ALLIANCE	DANTHONIA SPICATA HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM TERRESTRIAL

RANGE

Voyageurs National Park

This type primarily represents localized disturbed sites around abandoned cottages in and around the park.

Globally

This association is found in Minnesota, Michigan, and Ontario.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Voyageurs National Park

Sites are typically disturbed, shallow soil sites.

Globally

Stands occur on granite or metamorphic rocks. Soils are thin and acidic. Conditions at Isle Royale National Park, where this community is restricted to rocky summits and rocky slopes of ridges where a lot of bedrock is exposed, may be typical of the type (C. Reschke 1999). It may also occur on disturbed sites, following clearing of the natural vegetation (M. Smith personal communication).

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Voyageurs National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
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Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Short shrub	<i>Juniperus communis</i> , <i>Amelanchier bartramiana</i> , <i>Diervilla lonicera</i>
Forb	<i>Hieracium piloselloides</i>
Graminoid	<i>Danthonia spicata</i>
Nonvascular	<i>Cladina</i> spp., <i>Xanthoparmelia</i> spp.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Voyageurs National Park

Globally

Danthonia spicata, *Hieracium piloselloides*, *Cladina* spp., *Xanthoparmelia* spp.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Voyageurs National Park

This type was not described in the park proper but is thought to occur on nearby private land. See the global description for some characteristics of the type.

Globally

The vegetation is open and dominated by graminoids. Characteristic dominants include *Danthonia spicata* and *Poa compressa*. Features at Isle Royale NP may be typical of the type. There, a sparse cover of trees over 5 m tall (from

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Voyageurs National Park

0 to 20% cover) is found. The most common trees are *Picea glauca* and *Populus tremuloides*. Cover of tall shrubs may be present (from 0 to 10% cover); the most common tall shrubs are *Picea glauca*, *Amelanchier bartramiana*, and *Crataegus douglasii*. Cover of low shrubs (under 1 m tall, including dwarf-shrubs) varies from 5 to 20% cover; the most common low shrubs are *Juniperus communis*, *Amelanchier bartramiana*, *Diervilla lonicera*, *Rosa acicularis*, *Juniperus horizontalis*, and *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*. Cover of herbs varies from 30 to 80% cover; *Danthonia spicata* is the dominant herb (15 to 40% cover), other characteristic herbs are *Hieracium piloselloides*, *Agrostis hyemalis*, *Clinopodium vulgare*, *Elymus trachycaulus*, and *Poa* spp. Cover of nonvascular plants varies from 10 to 60% cover; the most abundant lichens are *Cladina* spp. (reindeer lichens, 5 to 25% cover) and *Xanthoparmelia* spp. (1 to 5% cover) (C. Reschke personal communication 1999).

CONSERVATION RANK G?.

DATABASE CODE Cegl005157

COMMENTS

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This type, which primarily represents localized disturbed sites around abandoned cottages, was not described. A variety of native and exotic species can be found on these sites. It occurs mainly on private lands so sampling was not possible.

Globally

This type may arise after clearing or burning of conifer-dominated stands on rocky sites.

REFERENCES